

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the Office Action. Claims 13-24 are canceled. Claims 1, 4-12, 25 and 28 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Claim Amendments and/or Cancellations

With particular reference to the claim amendments, Applicants note that while claims 13-24 have been canceled, such cancellations have been made in the interest of expediting the allowance of this case. Notwithstanding, Applicants, may, on further consideration, determine that claims of broader scope than those now presented are supported. Accordingly, Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications with claims broader in scope than the claims now presented.

Consistent with the points set forth above, Applicants submit that neither the claim cancellations made forth herein, nor any other claim amendments, claim cancellations or statements advanced by the Applicants in this or any related case, constitute or should be construed as, an implicit or explicit surrender or disclaimer of claim scope with respect to the cited, or any other, references.

B. Remarks

Applicants note as well that the remarks, or a lack of remarks, set forth herein are not intended to constitute, and should not be construed as, an acquiescence, on the part of the Applicants: as to the purported teachings or prior art status of the cited references; as to the characterization of the cited references advanced by the Examiner; or as to any other assertions, allegations or characterizations made by the Examiner at any time in this case. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the purported teachings and purported prior art status of the cited references at any appropriate time.

II. ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 4-12, 25 and 28 is appreciated. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims. As all of the rejected claims have been canceled, namely, claims 13-24, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 13-24 on various grounds as lacking patentability. Applicants disagree, but submits that in view of the cancellation of those claims herein, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

IV. FEE AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; and/or (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks submitted herein, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims 1, 4-12, 25 and 28 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections is requested and allowance of those claims is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 25th day of August 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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